



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 5, 2003

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist

TO: Minerals File

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, Rock-It Stone, Strawberry River Quarry, S/013/008, Duchesne County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 21, 2003

Time of Inspection: About 2:35 to 3:05 p.m.

Conditions: Partly Cloudy, 80's

Participants: Doug Jensen and Paul Baker, DOGM

## Purpose of Inspection:

We were passing through the area and decided to visit the site.

## Observations:

Previously, the operator had been taking stone primarily from a pile in front of the cliff that had been left by a former operator. Although it appears this is still occurring, it also appears the operator has been using the trackhoe to pull rock from the cliff. This area is shown in Photos 1 through 4. There is a pile of what appears to be largely waste material, and a road extends from the county road up this material to the base of a highwall/cliff (Photo 1). The operator is probably still taking stone from this pile.

Equipment on site includes a trackhoe and a rock splitter or guillotine. Photo 1 shows some of the pallets and stockpiled stone adjacent to the road.

Photo 4 shows some fencing material and some used oil buckets. Some of the buckets appear to be garbage and should be cleaned up, but, to the operator's credit, the trash is kept relatively neatly in one location rather than being scattered all over the site.

Since the last inspection, fill has been placed in a small drainage to the west of the quarry to create a road to the area above the cliff (Photos 5 and 6). This is a very steep road, and we questioned whether anything other than a dozer could climb the road.

Photo 7 is a view from the top of the highwall/cliff down toward the operation next to the county road. Photo 8 is a panorama of the area above the highwall that has been cleared, apparently of overburden.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The small mining notice of intention indicates mining activities would be confined to the southeast quarter of Section 16, Township 4 South, Range 7 West, USM. The drainage in which the operator has placed fill is clearly not within this area, so the operator needs to amend the notice of intention and show he has right of entry to this area.

The larger disturbance above the cliff may also be outside the southeast quarter and the permitted area, but it is impossible to tell with certainty from the information available to the Division.

I am concerned about the fill placed in the drainage. The bottom of the drainage is just across the road from the Strawberry River, and the fill appears to have enough fine grains that some could erode into the river. There needs to be something of a channel coming down this drainage. The operator could direct runoff water toward the side of the drainage and build a riprapped channel. Another option might be to armor the top of the access road in a way that it serves as the channel. It appears the operator has plenty of rock available with which this could be done.

In addition to having an armored channel, there needs to be other sediment control for runoff and sediment coming off the road. I assume there is a culvert under the county road near this point and suggest that the operator could install a silt fence to keep some of the sediment out of the river. Straw bales would also work, but they would probably be destroyed by the many cattle in the area.

When the Division originally accepted the notice of intention for this operation, it approved a variance from topsoil salvage requirements. It now appears it may be easier than originally envisioned to salvage soil from the area above the highwall/cliff. The Division cannot now require the operator to salvage this soil, but it is in the operator's best interest to salvage anything that might be available.

PBB:jb

cc: Shannon Peatross, Rock-It Stone  
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## ATTACHMENT

### Photographs

S/013/008, Strawberry River Quarry, Rock-It Stone Works

Inspection Dated: August 21, 2003; Report Dated: September 5, 2003

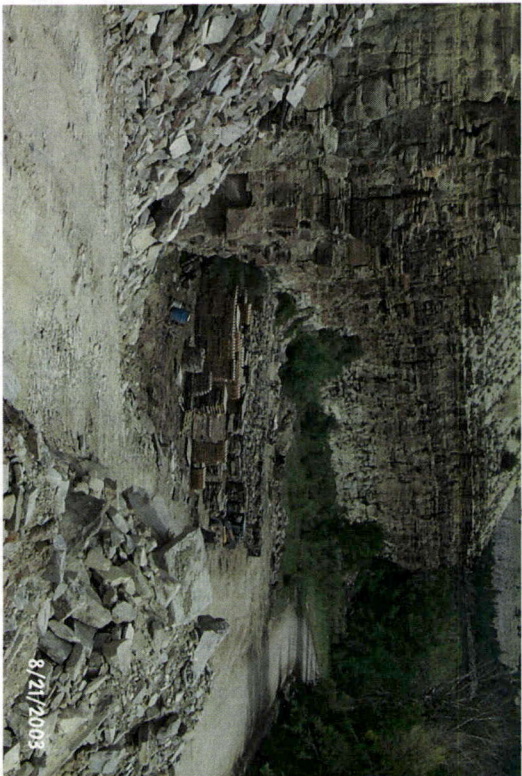


Photo 1. View looking approximately east toward the pallets and stockpiled stone at the base of the cliff.



Photo 2. Cliff from which the operator has been quarrying stone.



Photo 3. View looking approximately west.



Photo 4. Trash and other material next to the highwall/cliff. The trash needs to be cleaned up.





**Photo 5. Fill placed in a small drainage west of the quarry for access to the area above the quarry.**



**Photo 6. View down into the drainage shown in Photo 5.**



**Photo 7. View from above the highwall/cliff toward the operations adjacent to the county road.**





**Photo 8. Panorama of the cleared area above the quarry. This panorama consists of three photos stitched together.**